



Tidewater Friends of Foster Care



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



Our Mission

Tidewater Friends of Foster Care (TFFC) is committed to enriching the lives of foster children in our community, because we believe that every child deserves an opportunity to thrive! Due to the inherent instability in family environment, foster children often miss out on key elements of a healthy and happy childhood, such as consistent family routines, enrollment in a single school system, and participation in enriching activities. Consequently, these children struggle emotionally and academically, with outcomes reflecting this strife.

Through our philanthropy, TFFC strives to ensure that children in the foster care system have access to resources that afford them the opportunity to thrive.

Tidewater Friends of Foster Care

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LETTER *from the* PRESIDENT



Audra Bullock
President

Welcome to a special edition of the Tidewater Friends of Foster Care Annual Report. This one is special, because it covers a year and a half of operations: we decided to sync up with our fiscal year, opting to release a single issue that covers from June 2020 to December 2021. In this issue, like always, you will find updates on programs and outcomes along with stories of inspiration that exemplify the incredible support our community offers youth in foster care. You will also hear directly from our donors and supporters on why they choose to support our mission and programs for foster youth. Please make sure to read the quotes in *Why I Give*—they are truly touching.

I am also pleased to announce that Tidewater Friends of Foster Care celebrated an important milestone in 2021: June marked the 5th anniversary of our founding. So much has changed since the beginning, when we were Norfolk Friends of Foster Care and served just a few hundred foster children. We now serve over 1000 children a year, both foster children and underserved in the community, and help to connect families to the resources they need to create a healthy and happy environment for children to thrive. Throughout this time, the organization has grown and shifted to meet the ongoing and evolving needs of children and families, which at times has been challenging. Like everyone the last few years, the youth and families we serve have faced obstacles and loss, having to come to grips with many “New Normals”. However, foster youth have experienced missed visits, delayed reunification with family, and virtual social services and no matter how significant the challenges they’ve faced, this community has approached these as opportunities for growth, resiliency and triumph. Tidewater Friends of Foster Care has been honored to work alongside the foster care community to support in their journey through foster care, so that it might be a positive experience that allows healing and growth through an environment where they can thrive.

Like all businesses out there, we’ve had to shift our operational model, be strategic in our forecasting and respond dynamically to many unexpected changes. But throughout the organization’s existence, we have not compromised on our dedication to being a compassionate, servant leader in the realm of foster care, that is committed to making a meaningful impact for everyone we serve. From day-one our motto has been *Failure is Not an Option!* That still rings true in everything that TFFC does, from the tiniest details of the wrapping of a birthday gift, to the monumental efforts of our tutoring team. It’s all important and it all matters because it makes a difference for the kids we serve and their happiness and wellbeing matter.

TFFC can only do what we do through the incredible support of our donors, partners, volunteers and staff. To all those who have joined us throughout the years in making a difference in the lives of foster children, I express my deepest gratitude. To all the professionals who have dedicated their careers to serving the vulnerable within our community, you have my unwavering admiration for your undertaking to improve lives. To all the foster youth, foster parents, and families involved in the foster care system, I commend your strength, resiliency and commitment to family. Foster care is hard; it takes a village to make it a successful endeavor!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audra Bullock". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, elegant flourish at the end.

Audra Bullock

President, Tidewater Friends of Foster Care

OUR BOARD & OFFICERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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and foster/adoptive parent, Norfolk*

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Angelina Hopkins

Educator and Community Leader, Chesapeake

Diane Angelos Johnston

Community Leader, Virginia Beach

T. Richard Litton, Jr.

*Harbor Group International
and foster/adoptive parent, Norfolk*

Robert E. McCartney

The Barry Robinson Center, Norfolk

Ken Shewbridge

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*Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast and foster/
adoptive parent, Chesapeake*

Lakysa Laing

*Cox Communications and foster care alum,
Chesapeake*

Joy Rios

*Connect With A Wish and foster/adoptive
parent, Virginia Beach*

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Secretary, Treasurer

Thomas R. Litton, Sr.

Assistant Treasurer

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Director of Human Services, Norfolk
Department of Human Services*

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Foster Care & Adoption Unit, Norfolk
Department of Human Services*

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Foster Care & Adoption Unit, Norfolk
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*Adoptions Supervisor
Foster Care & Adoption Unit, Norfolk
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LaCora Harris

*Family Services Worker III
Foster Care & Adoption Resource
Development, Spotsylvania County
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Portsmouth Department of
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Virginia Beach Department of
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*Family Services Specialist, Foster
Care & Adoption, Chesapeake
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Sarah Rexrode

*Director, Franklin City Department
of Social Services*

Rhonda Williams

*Senior Family Services
Supervisor, Newport News
Department of Human Services*

Selena Marrow-Smith

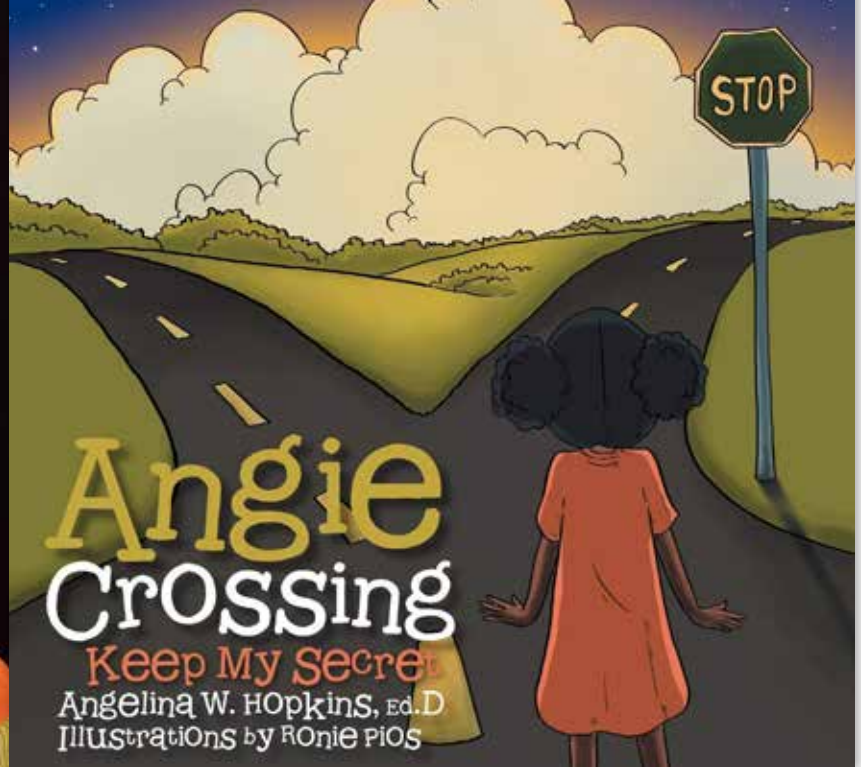
*Family Services Supervisor,
Newport News Department of
Human Services*

Lenora Cooke

*Senior Family Services
Supervisor, Suffolk Department
of Social Services*

Melvin Roy

*Foster Care Alum and Founder of
Foster U*



A Special Welcome to Angelina Hopkins

Dr. Angelina Hopkins is joined the TFFC Board of Directors in January 2022. Dr. Hopkins is a lifelong educator, who also has first-hand experience in the foster care system. A resident of Chesapeake, VA, and a wife and mother of three adult children, Angelina has provided leadership and program management in K-12 education for more than 30 years. Her career in K-12 education included work as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, high school principal, customer relations specialist, and Senior Director for Multicultural Education. Angelina's focus in program management included k-8 mentoring, summer enrichment, and after-school tutorials to give underserved students access to academic and personal successes in a global community. Her experiences led her to pursue her passion for serving by helping individuals with diverse needs to achieve reading comprehension and academic success. She presently motivates students, parents and caregivers in at-risk situations through her books; *"Angie Crossing Keep My Secret"* (2012) and *"What If Angie Don't Like Cabbage? – Triumphant from Foster Care to Adulthood"* (2010)

A 2001 doctoral graduate of Virginia Tech, Angelina Hopkins has served the community as a professional tutor for Tidewater Friends of Foster Care since 2020, a member of the Youth Advisory Committee, City of Chesapeake, VA 2017-2019, member of the Multicultural Alumni Advisory Board (MAAB) at VA Tech 2012-2015, member of the Board of Directors for the Schoolhouse Museum, Isle of Wight, VA 2013-2015, and a member of LEAD Hampton Roads class of 2002. Angelina is currently affiliated with Virginia Beach City Public Schools in Intervention Support. We are excited to welcome Dr. Angelina Hopkins to the Board of Directors to help oversee our service programs and to govern the future direction of the organization. Welcome Angelina!



The State of Foster Care

As of the end of 2021, there were 4929 children in the foster care system in Virginia. This overall number is down 6% from the end of 2020 and down over 12% from end of 2019. In part, this decrease mirrors a decline in the overall reported allegations of abuse and neglect across the state, but it also reflects a recent shift in service approach within the Child Welfare System - a conscious and concerted effort by Virginia Department of Social Services to facilitate the Families First Prevention Services Act. This law, which was passed in 2018, aims to increase the number of children who can remain safely at home with their families while engaged in the Child Welfare System, by providing families with greater resources and access to mental health services, substance-use treatment, and parenting-skills training. The law prioritizes the prevention of entry into foster care and considerably changes the availability of services for families and youth by providing federal funds to access community-based services before a child enters foster care. The law also influences how the courts advocate and make decisions for families by providing access to federal funds to prevent disruption within families.

The significance of prevention is monumental in the overall outcomes for children and families who otherwise would be separated by foster care. Separation from a primary attachment figure (i.e., a child removed from their parents) is one of the most traumatic things that a child can experience from a developmental perspective. The system as a whole acknowledges the significant damage this can cause, and conversely, how much better children do when they remain with their family through corrective services to address safety issues when at all possible. Most children entering foster care do so because of neglect, as opposed to physical or sexual abuse; therefore, providing targeted and effective intervention supported through expanded access to federal funding affords children and families an expanded opportunity to remain together. Reprioritizing of the approach to child welfare and administration of services in this way can help to ensure that children and families heal successfully together and thrive over the long term.

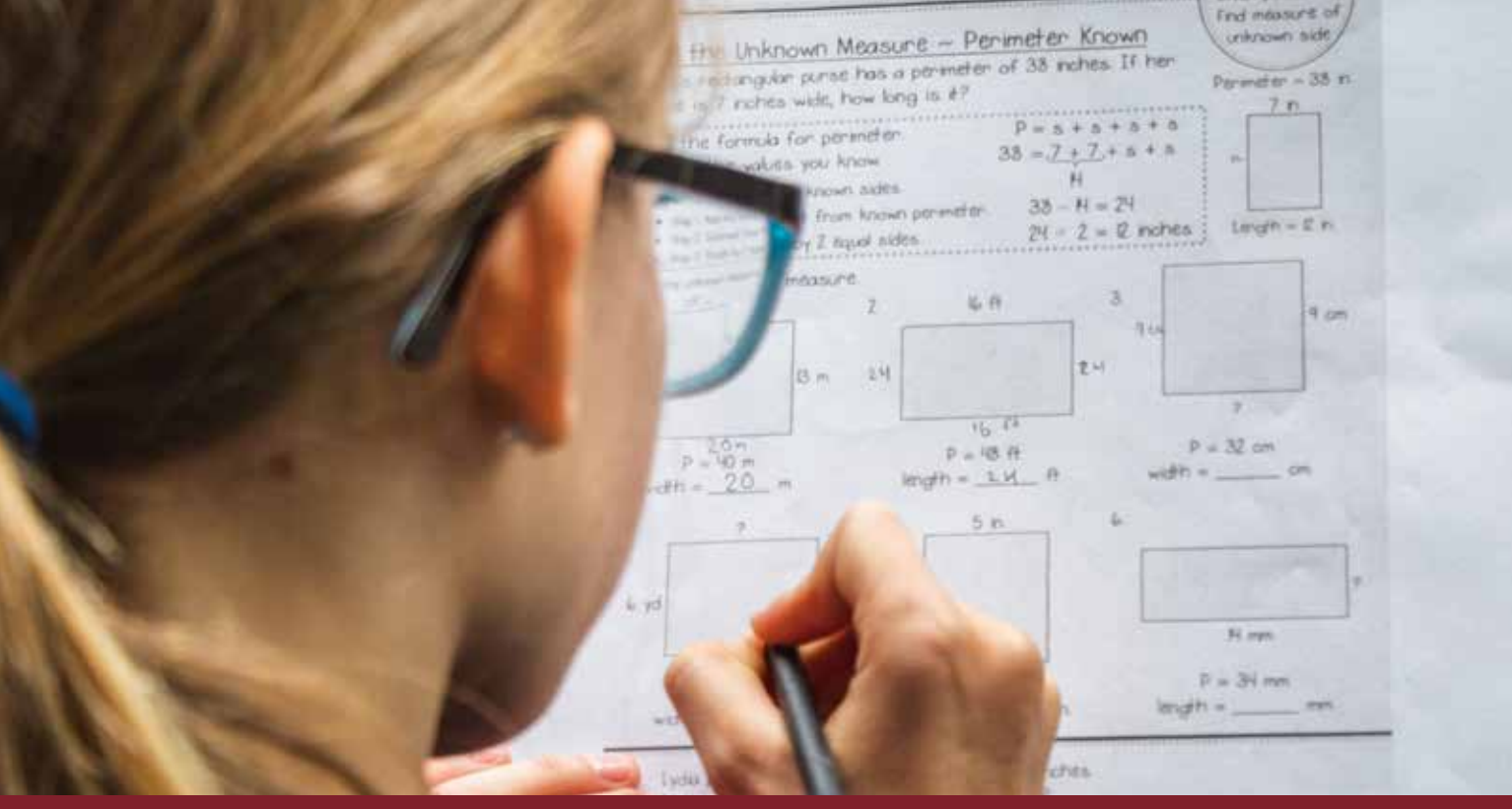


Over the past 2 years, the age distribution for the foster care population has continued to change as well. The percentage of older youth in care has risen dramatically, while the school-aged population has been in precipitous decline. This follows a shift in who has been reporting suspicions of abuse and neglect: beginning in 2020, there was a marked decrease in the percentage of educators reporting suspected child abuse or neglect and an increase in the percentage of law enforcement reporting. In 2019, 23% of all abuse or neglect reports came from educators and 17% came from law enforcement, whereas in 2021, only 14.8% came from educators and 22% came from law enforcement. Why are these important trends to follow? Together, the shift in overall population age and to law enforcement reporting means that we need more resources overall for the kids entering care.

In addition to the obvious changes in resources needed for teen versus school-aged children, this shift in population as well as the source of reporting, indicates future pressure on the system to open, train and maintain foster homes willing and able to meet the needs of older foster youth and youth experiencing more severe circumstances.

Older youth enter foster care for different reasons than their younger peers. Older youth are more likely to enter care due to more significant neglect and/or a behavioral problems than their younger peers. They also spend more time in foster care than their younger peers. Once in foster care, teens spend upward of 30% more time in care than their peers who entered care before the age of 14 years old [Supporting Older Youth Beyond Age 18: Examining Data and Trends in Extended Foster Care, Rachel Rosenberg, Samuel Abbott, June 03, 2019].

Now more than ever, we need parents who have the capacity to say “Yes!” to caring for youth in foster care who exhibit behavioral issues. It is not easy to care for children in duress who are acting out their feelings, but the alternative of having them disconnected from a nurturing environment only makes matters – and behaviors – worse. It is one of the core missions of TFFC to support families who have said “Yes!” to caring for youth in care like this - to help make the difficult times manageable and to ensure that no family walks alone through this journey. That is the point of the TFFC Village, a community who cares for all of the people involved in caring for youth in foster care.



Our Program Updates

TUTORING

Tidewater Friends of Foster Care provides one-on-one, in-home academic tutoring to help foster youth overcome learning gaps caused by family disruption. Our tutoring program serves students from Pre-K to College, including vocational studies and GED certification. We provide this service to students free of charge while in foster care and through at least one academic year after returning to their family of origin. We hire private tutors that go into the home (or instruct via virtual connections during the pandemic), so that parents are not required to provide transportation and so that children can establish a healthy studying environment at home. Our tutors are highly-qualified, professional educators, who are contracted at market rates to guarantee that our kids are getting the best tutoring services with accountability and retention – our goal is to ensure that our tutors lend to the academic progress and stability in the lives of the children we serve.

It is unfortunate to note that, as a group, foster youth have the poorest educational outcomes in the nation. They are far less likely to complete high school than their non-foster care peers, including those who are homeless. Only a little over half of youth entering foster care ultimately end up graduating from high school – this compares to a general population graduation rate of ~93% (VA, 2021). By 3rd grade, most foster youth are already one grade level behind in reading and by 11th grade, only one in five is proficient in reading and math.

This is driven in large part by instability: Foster youth are twice as likely to have excessive absences and 3 times more likely to be expelled than their peers. By 18 years old, over 1/3 of foster youth have experienced more than 5 school changes. This instability coupled with the educational challenges that exist for many of these youth prevent them from prospering, particularly for those spending a prolonged time in foster care. One out of every two youth aging out of foster care ends up homeless or incarcerated within 4 years of leaving the system and one in four ends up dependent on public subsidies indefinitely. These outcomes can be changed and that is the goal of the TFFC Tutoring Program.

How did our students do in the 2020–21 Academic Year?

Names of the students have been changed to protect their identity

173 Students

Received 1 or more hours of tutoring

6917 hours

of Virtual Instruction to students

149 Students

Received 4 or more hours of tutoring

Outcomes 2020–21 AY for Students

with 4 or more tutoring hours

33 Students

Received tutoring services after exiting foster care

95%

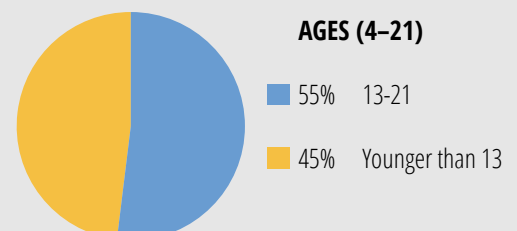
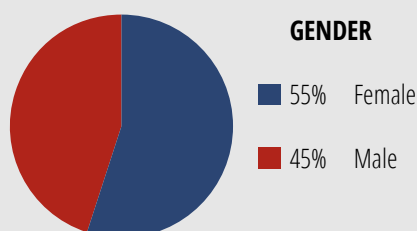
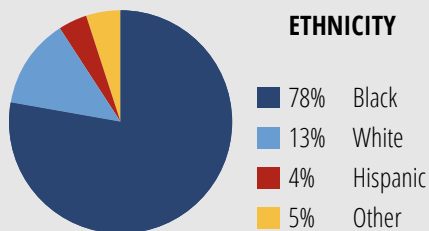
Promoted grade level

88%

Passed all tutored classes

100%

Graduated + 1 GED Certificate



Kaden – 17-year-old 10th Grader Makes it to Honors English!

Kaden was recommended for Honors English next school year! I was very excited to hear that and very proud of him! I know he will do well.

Mason – 13-year-old 7th Grader Makes Honor Roll!

I have had the pleasure of tutoring Mason for the past two years. Initially, he lacked confidence in his ability to be successful in all subject areas. He was very unorganized, lacked seriousness of purpose and did not put forth a conscientious effort to do well. Mason is a changed student! He has made major academic gains this school year and has become much more conscientious and serious about his school work. With constant support, review and repetition of content material, Mason is learning to become an independent learner who is intrinsically reinforced and motivated by his success in school. On numerous occasions, he has contacted me to tell me about the grades he made on a test or project. At times, he would call me to ask for clarification to complete an activity or to just review with him for a test. He has managed to stay on honor roll for the majority of the school year. I have been told by the parent, how the teachers praise him, oftentimes saying they wish they had more students like Mason.

Melissa – 18-year-old Senior Graduated on Time!

Melissa graduated on-time! She has worked really hard to turn her academic careers around in a very short amount of time, and her hard work has paid off! Melissa has gone from a failing student to an A student. She has made significant gains in all subjects. She has grown tremendously in her reading comprehension, and her writing has improved as well. When I last spoke to her, she had all A's and was hoping to leave high school on a high note!

George – 15-year-old 8th Grader Named Best Student in History Class!

I have tutored George for the last two years and each year presented with its own challenges with the latter being the better of the two. George disliked school and everything associated with it. His reading level was very low. He had limited math skills and he could not develop a complete sentence with proper grammar and mechanics. When I first began working with George, he was very disrespectful, uncooperative, defiant/oppositional and would not respond favorably to redirection. In contrast, this year he has been more respectful, completed his work, responded more favorably to redirection, enjoys math (he excels in this area) and has been identified as one of the best history students in his class!

Research shows that there is no more effective method of educating than one-on-one individualized instruction... simply put, this is a program model that works! Since 2016, we have served over 390 foster youth in the program, ranging in age from 3 to 23 years old, and have provided over 24,500 hours of one-on-one academic instruction. Our tutors have developed strong, supportive relationships with their students, acting as positive role models and unwavering educational advocates. More than 90% of the seniors in our program have graduated from high school, 94% of our students have promoted grade levels, and reading proficiency is up across the board. Foster youth in this program have excelled – with this support to overcome the academic barriers, our students are thriving!

Thank you to this year's tutoring program sponsors: Sue Cook-Winfrey Fund and Community Leadership Partners of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, Beazely Foundation, American Borate Company, Wells Fargo Foundation, Connect With A Wish, Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation, Norfolk Rotary Charities and Kiwanis Club of Norfolk, along with all our individual donors who support this program. Lives are changing for the better because of you!

And a special "thank you" for our Champion Sponsors providing a full year of tutoring for one or more students in our tutoring program: Atlantic Bay Mortgage, Beazley Foundation, Southeast Virginia Community Foundation, J&A Racing Foundation, Optima Family Care, The Millers Foundation, The Suffolk Foundation, Langley Foundation, Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, Connect With A Wish, Glenda and Gary Philbin, Lewis Webb III, James and Karen Sparks, Tracy and Dan Keller, David and Nicole Kushner, Mark and Michelle Warden, Robert and Alicia Friedman, Gerry and Chris Bolton, and the following Funds of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation: Arnold and Oriana McKinnon Family Fund, Sue Cook Winfrey Fund and the Community Leadership Partners. Together with all of our tutoring supporters, you have changed lives of our students for the better and we are grateful!

OUTREACH

Keeping the pipeline full of foster parents ready and willing to take in children entering foster care is a core tenant of Tidewater Friends of Foster Care, however, our outreach work doesn't stop there. We work to engage supporters, volunteers, donors and community members in a level of awareness that can meet all the needs of the local foster care community. We educate, inspire and engage people from all walks of life to make a difference for children and families in their time of greatest need. Whether it's a loving foster parent or simply a pair of reading glasses that is needed for a child, TFFC is there to ensure this need is met responsively and reliably!

We've learned over the years that foster parent recruiting is a long process of training, engaging, supporting and honoring, and that simply putting up a billboard or TV ad just doesn't get the job done. It's too big of an ask. For one, people are not typically familiar with the intricacies of foster care even if they do feel called to help children, and two, nearly everyone who does want to help is afraid of being heartbroken by children returning to their families. That's why TFFC has taken the Village approach. We enable our community to show up and help in whatever capacity they can; we invite them to learn about these children, their families, and the need in ways that are comfortable; and we guide those who are interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a foster parent on a supportive journey with others considering the same to a decision that works for them.

Yes, foster care is hard. Yes, it hurts to love a child and let them go. And YES, it's all worth it, because it's so incredibly rewarding! When you invest emotionally in a child, who by the way, needs that emotional investment more than anything else at the time they are in foster care, you are helping to heal not just that child, but their whole family. This selfless act is so life-changing in miraculous ways, that most foster parents will tell you that they are the lucky ones for being able to have these children in their lives – even if only for

Tidewater Friends of Foster Care presents

FOSTER CARE AWARE

VIRTUAL SUMMIT 2021

WIDE OUTREACH, NEW VIEWERS, and the
SAME POWERFUL VOICE

1 MONTH

MAY 3 – JUNE 1, 2021
3 Segments each week at 9am



7806 TOTAL PEOPLE REACHED

884 INTERACTIONS

579

CLICK-THROUGHS

208

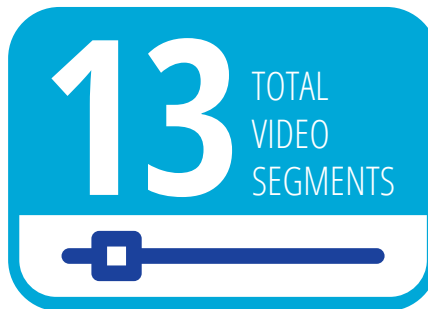
FACEBOOK REACTIONS

97

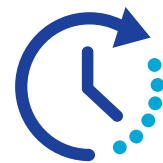
TOTAL SHARES & COMMENTS



463
TOTAL VILLAGE MEMBERS



13 TOTAL VIDEO SEGMENTS



316
ESTIMATED MINUTES OF VIDEO CONTENT



196
TOTAL COMBINED YOUTUBE VIEWS

\$1200

PROVIDED BY VILLAGERS IN
SUPPORT TO MEET ACUTE
NEEDS OF FOSTER YOUTH

24

NEW POTENTIAL
FOSTER PARENTS



246
PODCAST LISTENS

**100%
SUCCESS**



a short time. As the saying goes, You might be temporary in their lives, but your impact lasts a lifetime. It's really true.

That said, fostering isn't the only way to make a lasting impact. There is room for everyone to make a difference in a child's life and that was the focus of our Foster Care Aware Event in May 2021. Just like the previous year, Foster Care Aware was a month-long Virtual Summit on foster care. This year's twist was on how to make a difference at any capacity! We reached over 7000 people through FaceBook, YouTube and PodCast. We put out multiple calls to action that were answered by our Village members meeting the acute needs of foster youth during the month of May, including eye glasses, groceries, bedding, cribs, strollers, and much more, totaling over \$1,200 in support. It was definitely a success!

PROFESSIONAL AND FOSTER PARENT TRAINING



Our Prospective Parent Program, which helps guide people through the decision process of becoming a foster parent, grew even stronger this year, providing the emotional support and accountability needed to thrive throughout the process. Through our program, prospective parents join a community where they learn skills and tools to help them navigate the system, choose a licensing agency, and connected with other people on similar journeys. Prospective Parents have their questions answered by professionals and other parents, and are paired with a personal coach so they can talk through the ups and downs and get the support they need throughout the whole process.

Our goal is to bring more people into the sphere that cares for these children and their families and support them throughout this incredibly important journey.

In partnership with the Barry Robinson Center and the ATTACH organization, TFFC produced the Beyond the Behavior training series featuring Mary McGowan, a nationally renowned expert on Attachment and Trauma in Children. This training provided evidence-based insight for parents and professionals working with children who are struggling with behavioral issues originating from trauma. Participants learned about adult and child attachment styles, arousal levels linked to survival mechanisms in the brain, behaviors associated with attachment difficulties and developmental trauma, as well as strategies for attachment-focused parenting and teaching.



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities are so important to the whole health of a child. They inspire kids to get out and be active, develop and refine social and inter-personal skills, and generally make for better spirits. This is particularly so for kids in foster care, many of whom need this kind of stress release. That's why TFFC supports extracurricular activities for youth in care, and to date have supported over 340 separate activities for 194 kids in foster care of all ages. From singing lessons to martial arts, and from football to cheer, we've helped foster kids engage in healthy and enriching activities that will benefit them over the long run.

We've also continued our partnerships with the YMCA of South Hampton Roads and the Virginia Peninsula to offer Y memberships to our foster youth, serving over 1000 family members across Hampton Roads. These incredible partnerships make it possible to leverage the most benefits for the youth and families we serve, helping to keep them healthy, happy, and engaged throughout the pandemic and beyond!

FOSTER YOUTH TRAINING

The Life Skills Digital Training Academy. For many years now, TFFC has provided Life Skills training for teens and young adults in the foster care system. Pre-pandemic, this support was offered through the monthly in-person training sessions conducted by the Department of Human Services. TFFC provided subject experts to offer training on various skills including resume building and interviewing, securing rental housing, banking, personal safety, cooking, and conscious conversations, among many other skills. This year we invested in transforming our in-person training into a digital library of training modules that can not only reach a larger segment of the teen and young adult foster care population from the comfort of their homes, but that can be evergreen material for years to come. Community leaders and experts from across the country participated in the construction and we are proud of the resulting curriculum.

GIFTING PROJECTS

The 2020 Holiday Project was simply unbelievable – 741 holiday wish lists were met through the amazing generosity of our sponsors: this was a 38% increase from the previous year! We masked up and served not only kids in foster care, but also those at risk of entering foster care across all of Hampton Roads. Thanks to donated space from Colliers International in the Norfolk Commerce Park, we were able to safely collect and distribute gifts from over 300 sponsors to more than 420 families! All told, more than \$80,000 worth of holiday gifts were provided by our supporters! What amazing generosity for children in need.



The 2021 Holiday Project was even bigger! With our recent expansion to the Peninsula and Western Tidewater, we were able to grant the holiday wishes of nearly 900 youth – another 20% increase over the previous year! We had three distribution sites this holiday season, thanks to our Friends at Suburban Capital, who donated space at the Pembroke Office Complex in Virginia Beach; the Hampton YMCA Fitness and Wellness Center, who collected and distributed more than 160 gifts for Peninsula foster youth, and M&M Hospitality Group, who collected and distributed gifts for our Western Tidewater youth. We also were able to give extra gifts to help our families bond this holiday season – board games, blankets, puzzles, hot cocoa and more – thanks to our friends at BECO Asset Management, LLC, who held a donation drive for family bonding gifts for our foster families.

We are eternally grateful to all of the 377 sponsors of the 2021 Holiday Project, who made the holidays merry for nearly 500 families and contributed over \$95,000 in gifts and donations! The children and families served through this project are incredibly appreciative of your warm benevolence.

The birthday project is going strong, with more than 1600 birthdays celebrated to date! For children in foster care, birthdays can be especially hard, because many of them internalize the separation from their family on their birthday. Receiving something special and unexpected from a caring individual can really make the difference between a sad birthday and a happy birthday. That's where the TFFC donors, volunteers and supporters continue to make a remarkable difference, one child at a time; making birthdays for the children we serve a day of happy memories! Thank you to our sponsors and volunteers for making this possible!

CAMPS

The world opened up and summer camp was the place to be in 2021! In the summer of 2020, we sent 24 kids to a total of 40 weeks of camp without a single incident of COVID – yay and kudos to our YMCA camp partners for their amazing operations that kept all our campers safe! In 2021 we sent 101 campers to 247 weeks of summer camp and still everyone was kept safe! That's a record-breaking camp season for TFFC and a truly amazing summer for the kids and families we serve. It's incredible to see the joy that camp brings children, particularly coming out of such a hard and confining year. We send a special thanks to the Philbin Family for sponsoring so many of our kids to attend the best summer camps around – the true joy these summer camps have created is remarkable!

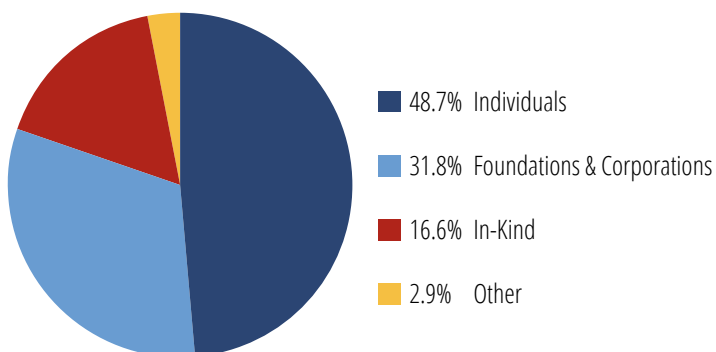


Development & Investment

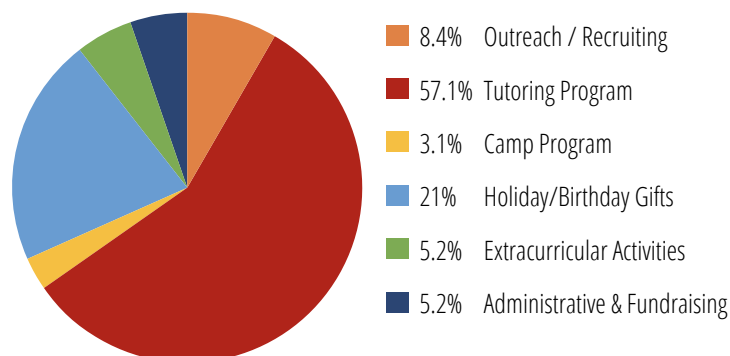
Through the generous contribution of donors, sponsors and supporters, TFFC has invested over \$2.2M in improving outcomes for the foster youth of Hampton Roads since our founding in 2016. Aligned with our mission, we made investments that will have meaningful and lasting impacts in lives of foster children. We have worked hard to ensure that every child served receives the very best services, with the most efficient use of resources possible.

Our on-going commitment is that for every dollar given to TFFC, we invest at least 90% in programs that directly benefit foster youth, and to date, we have lived up to that promise! More than 94% of every dollar spent has been on our service programs. We have maintained this high investment efficiency by relying heavily on volunteers and partnerships to keep our administrative costs as low as possible; for example, the TFFC President and Director, Audra Bullock, continues to donate 100% of her time to leading the organization. However, as TFFC has grown, we have also built a core support staff, made up of both full-time and part-time employees, to ensure our program integrity and quality of service remain high. As we continue to grow and expand our geographic service regions, we are committed to keeping our pledge of efficacy and efficacy in making a difference for foster youth and their families.

DEVELOPMENT



INVESTMENT



WHY I GIVE to TFFC

Dear Audra,

My sister became ill while pregnant and, due to a complicated family situation, there was no one to take care of her two youngest children. My husband and I had two daughters in college at the time but decided that we were fortunate to be able to help. Kristin passed away five months later and by then we had fallen in love with both of the boys and decided to adopt them. This made me realize there are many families where there is literally no one to help. Hopefully by helping a foster family to take in a child, we can help another struggling family.

Patricia

Because 4 of my grands came through the foster system and I was a foster parent

We are taught that when we give freely, we receive back 10 fold. Just imagining the smiles on the kids' faces when they receive their gifts, even without being present you know you made someone's day and maybe even helped to change a life. It truly is a rewarding opportunity. Never underestimate the Power of Love and compassion as good for you as it is for them.

Betsy

Mark

Good Morning Audra,

I was a foster kid a few times growing up, twice for a very short time, the third time was for 6 years, and to be honest I think my life would have gone much different had it not been for the foster program. I really just want to pay it forward. For the moment this is the best way I can do that.

Sumik

I believe that having a family truly determines what kind of person a child will turn out to be.

Charles

My children have so much and want for nothing—and I want them to develop empathy and awareness that not every child is in the same position. We try to give back where we can.

Jennifer

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In 2021, we launched the 962 Campaign where we asked organizations and leaders within the 757 to donate \$1 in honor of every child in foster care in the Tidewater Region - \$962 in total. Through this campaign we pledged to leverage the 962 Club donations to recruit and train prospective foster parents, engage community members to volunteer and sponsor our birthday project, and support our tutoring program. Thanks to our 962 Club members, children in foster care across Tidewater are receiving much needed services. Thank you 962 Members!

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Outlook *for the* Future

As we look forward to 2022 and beyond, TFFC is focused on expanding access to our services in ways that increase both reach and impact for the clients we serve. The influence COVID 19 has had on the foster care system has been vast and continues to unfold in ways that not only create needs for services among the foster care population, but also presents challenges to service delivery. We remain nimble in our approach to service administration and open to inputs from our clients and families on how we can best serve their needs. All the while, we operate under the knowledge that the full ramifications of the pandemic are likely yet unseen. To this end, we are committed to upholding our strategic growth plan, budgeting for healthy program participation, and deploying any residual funds to expanding our geographic footprint.

We are accompanying our program growth with an investment in increasing our staff to ensure that our services remain of the highest quality. This will help maximize impact and uphold our motto of “Failure is not an option”. We are also investing in our partnerships to help leverage community support for children and families in the foster care system. Our goal is to make it easy for anyone who wants to help in any capacity to become engaged in a way that works for them. Afterall, it takes a Village to care for these children and they benefit from all aspects of involvement from people who care.





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